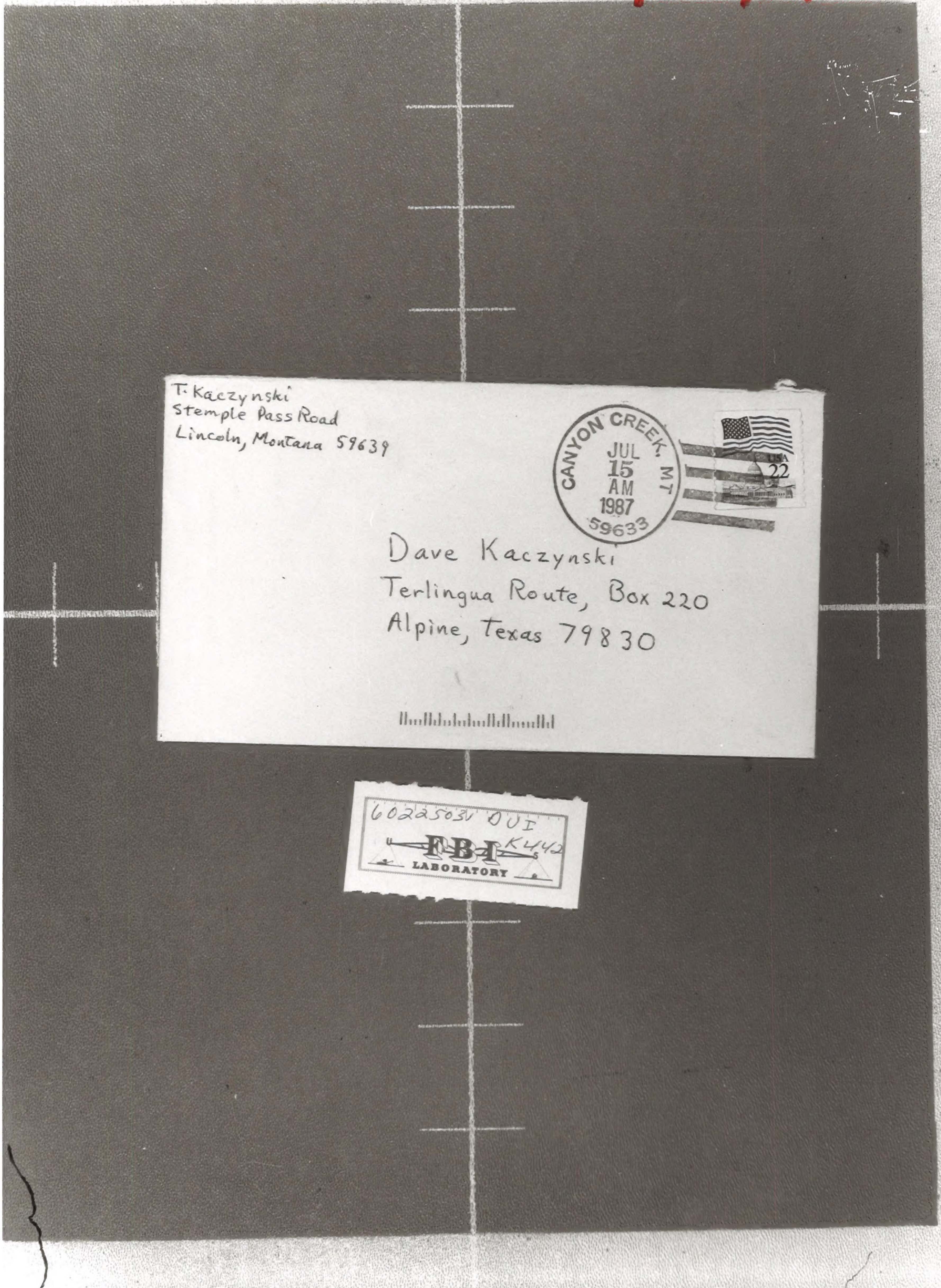
T-49



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Del periódico "Missoulian", 16 mayo, 1987. ①
Autor, Don Baty.

El Azote del Despoblado

Aquél arroyo frío y claro puede parecer muy bueno cuando se está en las montañas en un día de calor, pero piense en Giardia lambia antes de echarse a la ribera a chuparse el agua.

Giardia lambia es un animalito de célula única que puebla los intestinos de los hombres y otros mamíferos, produciendo giardiasis, enfermedad cuyos síntomas son náusea, vómito, diarrea y calambre abdominal.

En 1986 se registraron 229 casos de giardiasis en el estado [de Montana] y 45 en el condado de Missoula.

Greg Óliver, especialista en sanidad ambiental del Departamento de Sanidad de la ciudad y el condado de Missoula, dijo que el beber agua espuesta al aire libre es la causa principal de los registrados casos de giardiasis en Missoula, ocurriendo la mayoría de los casos en el verano.

Óliver dijo que muchos otros casos dejan de registrarse, y "cualquier agua a la superficie de la tierra merece la sospecha [de llevar Giardia]."

Bill Granath hijo, parasitólogo en la Universidad de Montana, dijo que Giardia se pega al lado del intestino y come "lo que come usted".

Durante esta etapa de alimentación activa, las Giardias se dividen y se reproducen y, según la raza de Giardia de que se trata y la capacidad del huésped para defenderse de ellas, pueden encubrir completamente el interior del intestino.

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Es "como forrar el intestino con plástico" (2)
—dijo Granath.— "Lo que beba usted, saldrá a chorros."

Si las Giardias se despegan del intestino y se las excreta del huésped, se encierran en un quiste protector y entran en un estado inactivo o latente hasta que encuentran otro huésped.

Aquí entra el arroyo frío: Los quistes tienen que permanecer mojados para sobrevivir, y cuanto más fría el agua, tanto mejor [para las Giardias].

Skip Rosquist, hydrólogo de la Floresta Nacional Lolo, dijo que las Giardias en sus quistes pueden sobrevivir hasta 3 meses en agua a 39° F, pero sólo cuatro o cinco días a 68° F.

Rosquist aconseja que toda agua a la superficie de la tierra se trate, o filtrándose, o hirviéndose por cinco minutos a lo menos.

[I don't have time right now to finish translating this article into Spanish, so I'll just transcribe the rest of it in English.]

Small filters that can be carried in a backpack, as well as larger filters that can treat about 3 quarts of water a minute, are available. He said water purification tablets will kill bacteria but are not always effective on Giardia cysts.

Spring water just bubbling out of the rocks is the safest and water in, or downstream of, lakes and beaver ponds is most likely to contain cysts.

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the way Giardia gets transferred through the ecosystem is subject to debate, but Oliver, Rosquist and Mike Kinsella, a parasitologist at Missoula Community Hospital, said research indicates humans are most to blame.

Beavers are often cited as a source of contamination because they live in water and are carriers of Giardia lamblia, but, Rosquist said, beavers are victims in that they are the first animals to get infected if cysts get into the water.

Rosquist has been testing fecal samples from beaver, elk and deer in the Rattlesnake drainage since 1980. He said his research, and that of Charles Hibler at Colorado State University, ~~suggests~~ that Giardia does not over-winter in wild animals, but rather is re-introduced into the ecosystem every year by people and their pets. People can be unwitting carriers of Giardia. The symptoms of giardiasis do not appear ~~until~~ until 10 to 14 days after infection, and some people never show symptoms.

Kinsella said he was infected with Giardia in 1983 but he did not have any symptoms of giardiasis. ~~He said~~ the infection ended, without treatment, after ~~two~~ two years.

Rosquist said sanitation is the key to controlling Giardia in the backcountry. He said human and dog feces should be buried eight inches deep in a dry spot at least 100 feet from water.

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(4)

Kinsella, who is ~~also~~ a pharmacist, said the common treatment for giardiasis is metronidazole, an antibiotic effective against protozoans and some bacteria.

— End of article

No mention of cysts in your liver or brain, I think that must have been a confusion ~~eith~~ either on your part or on the part of your source of information.

— Ted

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people — in our own society too (3)
— give little thought to their own or other peoples' motives, and that is a weak point, but I don't know that I would call them childish for it.

Also, your last line, about "a bestial dialectic which filled the earth with intense music while humanity slept," struck me as perhaps too lushly poetic to fit in with the tone of the rest of the material. But some people might differ with me on this point. And as I said, on the whole I thought your account was very good.

One dictionary I have lists "advertize" as an acceptable variant of "advertise", but another dictionary claims only "advertise" is correct, so I suppose it's safest to spell it with an "s".

I have a question about the young man who had no work and no plans and seemed hopeless. Was it that he had literally no means of subsistance, so that he was faced with either starvation or dependence on someone else? Or was it that he was dissatisfied with a life of subsistance farming on some patch of

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(1)

Querido hermano:

Me muero por saber tus aventuras en México — supongo que ya habrás regresado a tu casa. Por supuesto, puede ser que estés ahora ocupado de otras cosas, de modo que no te convenga escribirme tus experiencias en Durango. Pero, si alguna vez quisieses contarme tus experiencias, yo leería con mucho gusto lo que me escribieses.

De propósito, Pancho Villa era oriundo de Durango. Esto lo supe leyendo un libro muy interesante que adquirí recientemente: John Womack, Jr., Zapata and the Mexican Revolution, Vintage Books, 1968.

Eres en cierto modo más afortunado que yo: A tí te es atraída la gente, y eso te abre ciertas oportunidades que generalmente no se me abren a mí. Por ejemplo, este viaje a México: Yo en tu lugar, probablemente ningún mexicano no me habría invitado a mí a visitar su país.

— Ted

P.S. I went down to the

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ground, which I take it is the lot ④ of many Mexicans? That is, was his problem dissatisfaction with the prospects his village offered him, or was he looking forward to actual hunger?

You might be interested in reading Oscar Lewis, Pedro Martínez — an anthropologist's account of the Mexican peasant. Our parents have it, or used to have it, at home.

You might also be interested in reading that book on Zapata that I mentioned above. A lot of the book is devoted to political and military events that probably wouldn't interest you, but the book also tells one a lot about the Mexican peasants of the State of Morelos. Also, the character of Emiliano Zapata is interesting. I think some of the leftists have tried to make a kind of patron saint out of Zapata, but actually he was no leftist. He and his revolutionaries were just peasants who wanted to get back the land that the rich landowners had stolen from them. Some urban-intellectual type revolutionaries

mailbox to send you this ② letter, and found your latest letter there. I read your account of your adventures with the greatest interest, and would be most eager to hear about any other such experiences that you may have. Your adventures seemed most wonderful to me — it must have been like stepping into a different world.

I also thought your account was very well written. I assume you will make other visits to Mexico in the future, and after you have accumulated enough material I'll bet you could publish a book on your experiences. I think there would be a much better market for a book like that than there is for fiction. If you wrote the whole book as well as you did that account that you sent to me, and if it were properly organized and so forth, I don't see why you shouldn't be able to find a publisher for it. I thought you did a very good job of characterizing Rosa and some of the other people you described.

I do have a couple of minor criticisms. First, I wonder if it wasn't unfair to compare Rosa to a child. A little condescending, perhaps. A lot of

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(5)

who seem to have had
something in common with
the leftists, did attach them-
selves to Zapata's revolution,
but if I remember
correctly the book said the
peasant revolutionaries never
respected these urban-intellectual
types — they just made use
of them. Anyhow, if you
want to read the book I'll
send it to you on loan, but
I'd like to have it back,
cause I want to keep it in
my history collection. Let me
know if you want to borrow
it.

I already have the catalog
of Editores Mexicanos Unidos.
Their selection is pretty
poor. Thanks for the other
publisher's address. Whenever
I think I can afford it, I
may want to order that
Popol Vuh book. This Popol
Vuh stuff is ancient Maya
material. Some time ago I
ordered a book on it from
Espasa-Calpe, but it
turned out to be out of
print.

The Spanish phrase you
included in your letter was

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screwed up. You wrote: (6)
"El maestro tocababa poco mal". Should be ~~[illegible]~~ tocaba. Verb is tocar, imperfect form tocaba. You probably got confused by acabar, imperfect form <u>acab</u><u>aba</u> (stem, ending). But only the last "aba" is part of the ending of the imperfect form. Also — poco mal? Literally means "little badly". I suppose you meant "<u>un</u> poco mal", "a little, or somewhat, badly". But I doubt they would use that phrase. I think they would more ~~[illegible]~~ likely say "tocaba poco bien", which means "not very well" or "rather poorly". Of course, I'm referring to standard Spanish. The Durango dialect may differ.

Sigue estudiando español para poder comunicarte mejor con tus amigos mexicanos. Ya sabes probablemente más que yo acerca de la habla coloquial de México, pero si puedo ayudarte de alguna manera con la gramática del idioma oficial, lo haré de muy buena gana.

—<u>Ted</u>

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